CHALLENGE

FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM · LUCHA POR EL COMUNISMO · PLP

THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER OF PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

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MAY DAY 2023; WORKERS' POWER



Workers of the world, unite!

The following is a speech given by a new PL'er at the conclusion the of the NY/NJ march.

Hi Everyone, today is one of the most exciting days of my life , words cannot express how i feel to be here celebrating May Day with my comrades and be active like I wanted to be a year ago. I want to share with you all my experience, and why I chose to join the fight. I join the fight to defend my convictions and my ideas. From my experience, I know that only the struggle pays off. This is the reason I came here And not staying in my corner to push a rant.

I joined PLP because I know that although the bosses try to fool us with their "Labor Day" in September, we know that May Day is the real holiday for workers because it emphasizes working-class unity and shows the potential of our class to lead society. I experienced this when I flew to Alabama with one of my teachers to support the nine months-long miner's strike. That's when I discovered more about PLP and saw workers' power in action. Despite the bosses' best efforts to distract us, workers around the world and around the U.S. will celebrate May Day with marches and rallies like the one we are having right now. Workers around the world are showing that we must build multi-racial unity and working-class consciousness to raise a new, dynamic political construction: the dictatorship of the workers, where every worker is respected and given the opportunity to contribute and lead in society.

I joined PLP because I am currently a nursing student at Lehman College. My school is made up of working-class Black and Latino students who have been neglected because of the racism of the capitalist system. We know that communists believe that workers need to be truly educated, not just in how to treat patients and prescribe medicines, but also

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JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL FIGHT FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION



OUR FIGHT

Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.

The dictatorship of the working class — communism—can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today's world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.

Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world's workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.

While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim "communism is dead," capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.

Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society's benefits and burdens.

Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of "race." Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit Black, Latin, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.

Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women— sexism—and divisive gender roles created by the class society.

Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.

Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion's false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.

Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

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WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

CHALLENGE is for the working class, produced by the working class. The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP's criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a "following" around any particular individual.
While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual's writing of an article.

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Editorial

Sudan devastated by inter-imperialist rivalry



Resting between the Red Sea and two critical choke points, the blue and white nile rivers, a passageway for 10 percent of global trade Sudan is of of extreme geopolitical importance for Chinese, Russian, and U.S. imperialists.

At least 500 workers have been killed and hundreds of thousands more displaced since the start of a bloody civil war in Sudan's capital, Khartoum. This will always be the fate of the working class under capitalism, a system built on competition and exploitation, and which in times of crisis resorts to fascism and war. As the U.S. bosses—the most criminal rulers of them all–call for "democracy," we remind our working-class brothers and sisters to not be fooled by this trap. The capitalist bosses will never have our interests at heart. We call on workers in Sudan and across the globe to join Progressive Labor Party in the fight to smash this profit-driven system and create a communist world.

Imperialism creates instability in Sudan

Less than four years ago, the two current warring generals and capitalist thugs, Abdel Fatahl al-Burhan and Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo, were championed by millions of Sudanese workers (and the U.S. ruling class) as they partnered in a coup d'etat against Omar al-Bashir, the blood-soaked dictator aligned with the Chinese imperialists. But as CHALLENGE pointed out (7/27/19), this fake campaign for "democracy" was in reality a violent push by the U.S. ruling class to limit the Chinese bosses' influence over the region's energy and trade routes.

As we noted at the time, the main contradiction in Sudan is the same one shaping events worldwide: inter-imperialist competition among a rising China, a resurgent Russia, and a declining U.S. We warned that workers in Sudan will be "sharing" power with the very forces responsible for the deaths of hundreds of thousands of workers in Darfur and Yemen. Whenever workers are duped into compromising with the bosses, the consequences are deadly. Sudan, the third largest country in Africa, is now a tinderbox for an expanding regional war. As the desperate U.S. rulers keep losing ground to their rivals, their inability to control events will inevitably lead to a global conflict that will sacrifice millions of workers. The working class needs international communist consciousness more than ever to turn imperialist war into class war against the capitalists!

Russia, China target Sudan's riches

Sudan rests between two critical choke points on the Red Sea, a passageway for 10 percent of all global trade. The Suez Canal connects markets in Asia and Europe; the Bab-el-Mandeb strait links the Red Sea to the Arabian Sea. Sudan is also where the White Nile and Blue Nile rivers converge, a critical intersection for trade and access to fresh water. Additionally, it contains large reserves of gold and uranium, and houses critical infrastructure for refining and transporting oil from South Sudan. No imperialist power will easily let go of such a large prize. Russia's interest in Sudan predates the current conflict.

In 2017, President Vladimir Putin joined with al-Bashir to form Meroe Gold, a subsidiary of the Wagner Group of Russian mercenaries. After al-Bashir was deposed and jailed, Putin strengthened ties with General Degalo, a criminal best known as a leader of the genocidal Janjaweed militias in Darfur, a region of western Sudan. Degalo built a vast pool of wealth and political power by leveraging his ties with al-Bashir to seize some of the richest gold mines in Darfur (Guardian, 4/17). The Janjaweed evolved into the Rapid Support Forces that are now at war with Sudan's military. Sudanese gold now appears to be financing Russia's war with Ukraine in return for weapons and training for Degalo's militia (CNN, 4/21).

Meanwhile, China has long relied on Sudan's minerals for Chinese industry. Between 2011 and 2018, as part of its Belt and Road Initiative, China made hundreds of millions of dollars in loans to Sudan and invested in oil pipelines, textile factories, railways, and bridges across the Nile. China is Sudan's largest trading partner and their biggest supplier of goods. Stability in the region is a priority for the Chinese bosses.

U.S. complicity in Darfur genocide

Ever since Chevron discovered oil in Sudan in the 1970s, the U.S. ruling class has kept a hand in the country (Human Rights Watch, 2003). Under presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama, the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency worked closely with the notorious General Salah Gosh, who rose to become head of intelligence for Sudan (The Daily Beast, 1/9/2019). Between 2003 and 2008, al-Bashir, al-Burhan, Degalo, and Gosh were responsible for the mass murder of at least 300,000 workers in Darfur and for displacing 2.7 million more. In return for al-Bashir's help with a "counter-terrorism" campaign against Al Qaeda in Iraq, the U.S. bosses turned a blind eye to the genocide and kept sharing intelligence with Sudan.

Before the latest armed conflict broke out, the Joe Biden administration continued to negotiate with these war criminals to find a path back to "democracy," the bosses' word for capitalist dictatorship. But like the CIA support for U.S.-friendly pro-democracy coups in the Arab Spring in Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, and Syria, U.S. moves in Sudan have backfired and further exposed the weakness of the U.S. ruling class.

Fight for communism!

Liberal democracy is a nationalist tool to mislead and pacify the working class. From Sudan to the U.S., we are asked to choose between one mass murderer and another. When we are fooled by the bosses into thinking that their fight is our fight, we lose sight of the essence of capitalism: imperialism and war.

The only solution is communist revolution and a dictatorship of the working class, a society run by and for workers. It is our task to expose this dogfight between the bosses and the slippery slope to World War III. We must connect the attacks on workers in Sudan to attacks on workers everywhere. Join us! Build a fighting PLP!

Lynched by capitalism

Neely, indisposable & deserving of a better world

NEW YORK CITY, May 10—Progressive Labor Party (PLP) members demonstrated with workers, charged Daniel Penny, a white ex-marine for lynching Jordan Neely, a displaced Black worker-artist, with racist murder. Using a "banned" chokehold on the NYC subway May 1, bigoted Penny killed our class brother when he needed help the most. In an expression of class rage at the system that commits countless murders, we distributed over 200 CHALLENGEs, connecting Neely's murder to capitalism and providing an alternative with the headline "May Day: Power to the Workers!"

Under communism, all workers would have safe housing and resources, instead of being discarded like trash if they cann't produce profits. They wouldn't have to seek shelter in subway cars and fall victim to mental illness and suffer from substance dependency. And they wouldn't be galvanized to see other workers as their enemies.

Displaced workers not disposable

Neely was having an mental outburst when racist vigilante Penny lynched him. The bosses' racist ridden system murdered Neely, and Penny dealt the deadly blow. The ruling class's racist conditions brainwashed Penny into seeing a displaced Black man as disposable.

This crime represents the rise of fascism. U.S Imperialist bosses are going head to head in a desperate competition for the world's resources. They will stop at no cost to defend their profits on the backs of workers. As more funding goes towards imperialist competition against Russia and China, the bosses are cutting even more critical services for workers-especially Black and Latin ones-and simultaneously increasing direct attacks on them.

Liberal pols response with fascism

Mayor Eric Adams and Governor Kathy Hochul predictably released statements either trying to appear "neutral" or giving lip service to helping workers.

From one side of his mouth, racist Adams said, "we cannot just blanketly say what a passenger should or should not do in a situation like that" (Hell Gate, 5/4). Later, he said Neely was "Black, like me."

But actions speak even louder. Adams just last year announced plans for a $2.8 billion spending cut to the Department of Homeless Services while increasing the NYPD budget to $11.1 billion (CItyLimits, 2/18/22). Last November, he issued a directive that emboldens city agencies and kkkops to involuntarily institutionalize anyone who "looks like" they are having a mental crisis.



A multiracial throng of workers broke the city bosses' laws and occupied tracks, shutting down service. To smash the racist bosses we must build a communist movement to shut down capitalism for good.

It's clear which class Adams serves. And it's not the working class!

Meanwhile, Hochul played dumb: "I will look at it more closely to find out whether the state has a role." Liberals love to present themselves as antiracists, but their actions and words always prove otherwise! They're no better than these republicans spouting openly racist rhetoric about Neely. WIth Adams and Hochul's plan to flood the trains with more kkkops and force the displaced into unsafe shelters, it's clear the working class can't rely on these bosses' pawns to give us the support we need.

Capitalism attacks

This capitalist system in decay created the conditions for a racist Penny and a distressed Neely. Penny was stationed at Camp Lejeune during his time served. This is no coincidence, as the camp was tied to a Neo-Nazi plot to attack power substations (Fox 8, 4/18).

As capitalism spirals into crisis, low wages and a lack of affordable housing or decent health care are scourges that plague the entire working class. But, they fall hardest on those targeted by capitalist racism and sexism. The capitalist ruling class needs the racism that empowers cops and vigilantee racists to criminalize, dehumanize, and murder Black workers.

Workers rage justified, need PLP

Workers are outraged at Neely's murder. At the Broadway-Lafayette station, where Neely was murdered, workers had a vigil and occupied the train tracks, chanting, "Justice for Jordan Neely." The kkkops made arrests, and bruised and bloodied in a pindown.

To understand what's to come, we just need to look at what happened after mass uprisings in 2020 in the wake of the police murder of George Floyd. Many workers had desperately hoped that capitalism could be reformed to the point where Living While Black would no longer be a crime. But Neely's murder proves once again that as long as we allow the profit system to exist, the capitalist rulers will keep siccing their racist mad dogs on Black and Latin and immigrant workers. Once the bosses diverted the reform movement to defund the police into the election campaign for Jim Crow Joe Biden, the liberal politicians flipped, as usual, to serve their capitalist masters. Despite the fact that the U.S. murder rate fell last year and remains far below what it was in the 1980s and '90s (usatoday, 1/26), the bosses are using a trumped-up "crime wave" to pour more money into police terror and put more cops on the streets. The results? In 2022, at least 1,176 workers and youth—a record high—were slaughtered by the cops.

That's why we need to channel antiracist fightbacks into the class struggle, and build a movement to direct that anger into destroying capitalism and establishing a workers' state. Otherwise the bosses will just redirect our fightbacks into more do-nothing reforms. The only way to bring safety for all workers is for us to run a communist society without these bloodsucking scum! Help us make that world a reality.

LOS ANGELES: 'we have a world to win

LOS ANGELES–The 12 months since last May Day have been a hell of a year for the working class of the world. With Covid-19, imperialist wars, continued police murders and terror, unemployment, and lack of housing ravishing working-class communities, especially Black, Latin and Asian, it can be hard to imagine creating a better world for all of us. But May Day reminds us that we have a communist world to win and we can join together with our class brothers and sisters to fight to achieve that goal.

Celebrating struggle

This year in Los Angeles the Progressive Labor Party (PLP) hosted our own dinner in a local park. Our May Day event was organized by a committee made up mostly of students and close base, several of whom were attending their first May Day. On May Day, a multiracial, multi-generational group of 50 workers gathered to celebrate with speeches, songs, poetry, and food. It was a beautiful, sunny afternoon filled with the collective efforts of comrades, friends, and family to bring together nourishment for the mind, body, and soul.

The program was emceed by a comrade and an enthusiastic student celebrating her second May Day. Another group of students shared a skit depicting the history of May Day. In between, musician comrades led us in lively renditions of Bella Ciao, Too Many Names, and Deportees. There was the ever popular Table Talk and CHALLENGE Quiz where we discussed what PLP is and fights for and what communism is



and how we can achieve it. Even though not everyone agreed, we had lively discussions that will continue as we move forward.

Another highlight was a poetry performance honoring the first May Day fighter, Frederick Holder (who was killed by LA County Sheriffs two years ago), and all the impacted families out in the streets. We continue to fight alongside impacted families in Los Angeles and link their struggles to the world-wide fight against police killings.

The struggle continues

PLP has been involved in struggles against police terror for many years. In LA, we have continued to work directly with several victims' families during the past year. These families have led regular rallies and protests, recently bringing the fight directly to the District Attorney's neighborhood and very doorstep. Not only do the families speak about their experiences with the racist LAPD and the LA County Sheriffs, but we show our strength by taking over the street and collectively confronting the police. We have also been active in a tenants union campaign organizing in a building where the slumlord is refusing repairs and trying to evict tenants who are leading the struggle. All of these actions continue to be welcomed and supported by workers who live in these areas.

Many attendees were excited to learn more about communism and PLP. Two students are already planning to participate in next year's May Day program and others are ready to come to the summer project. As a result of our ongoing work, many hundreds of people have been exposed to communist and antiracist politics and more people understand the strength of the working class when we unite. The future here looks bright for the growth of PLP and our movement to rid the earth of the capitalist exploiters and their henchmen in "law enforcement."

MAY DAY: WORKERS' DAY

NY/NJ: rain or shine, it's workers' time!



Brooklyn, April 29– In the midst of steady rain, Progressive Labor Party (PLP) and friends marched through Brooklyn to commemorate the day that calls for workers to take power around the world: May Day. This year's theme was a call for the international working class to unite to smash inter-imperialist war in a time of rising capitalist crisis around the world. Rather than die in the bosses' wars, PLP fights to bring together the strengths of the working class to organize for a world worth fighting for, a communist world. May Day is an expression of our collective efforts to build that egalitarian, just world in which workers will make sure that our entire class is fed, educated, sheltered, and taken care of communally.

Smash racist borders

For this reason, the fight for communism knows no borders. Regardless of where you are, you are a member of the working class—our May Day march is for all of us! This affirmation of unity was front and center at our march. International greetings from Colombia, Pakistan and Haiti helped inspire marchers with the class struggle waged by the Party around the globe. Speeches before the march echoed this call for workers to organize and join PLP so that the working class can seize state power. In the face of the bosses' rising fascism, our class must turn the guns around and build towards revolution. In line with the party's internationalism, each speech was translated into Haitian Creole, Spanish, and English, reflecting PLP's multiracial fight for a communist future. Though many were wet and cold, 200 marchers from numerous places along the East Coast of the United States showed up to express their commitment to the international working class.

Communist optimism drowns out the rain!

Wearing red ponchos to match red flags, we raised our fists to show the unity of workers marching down Flatbush Avenue. Demonstrating that workers have what it takes to adapt to any situation, members of the PLP carefully wrapped CHALLENGE newspapers in plastic grocery bags to keep them dry and to sell. Hundreds of copies of CHALLENGE were distributed to supportive working-class Brooklynites in this way. When chanters on the front truck could not use the onboard sound system because of the rain, comrades took turns making a beat with an umbrella, which energized those at the front of the march to maintain a passionate chanting spirit. Marchers showed their indomitable strength chanting together, "We don't care about the rain! Flush these bosses down the drain!"

Many workers dared to be soaked as they walked towards the doors of shops, paused to listen, dance, put their fists up, and smile, commemorating the moment by putting their phones up or waving to their class marching by. A lot of others opened their windows and watched with awe and joy from high story buildings and encouraged us when we noticed them. One worker waved two red roses out of her window in a show of solidarity with the march.

Fascism means… Build communist leadership

At the close of May Day, onlookers cheered on as they heard the speech of a new Haitian comrade who spoke about how the party's dedication to internationalism and antiracist class struggle won her over to communist revolution and to join PLP. Young comrades from Kingsborough Community College also spoke of PLP's fight against racist police violence within education. They exposed the liberal bosses' attempts to split the working class by appointing a Black college president to arrest and harass Black students. Though the liberal misleaders attempt to make us treat the openly fascist white supremacists like Trump as the main danger, PLP understands that it is the multicultural face of liberal fascists that is most venomous to our class. We call these liberal capitalists Big Fascists (see Glossary) because they are more capable of building support for imperialist war and convincing our class to make sacrifices to preserve their profit system in crisis. Against the Big and Small fascist bosses' efforts to divide and conquer, PLP fights to unify all members of the working class towards a communist horizon.

Against the bosses' dreary, gray world of capitalist exploitation, marchers left with a renewed optimism of revolutionary potential—that though the night is dark, we can be the sun that breaks through. Ending with a recitation of the Internationale, marchers sang with resounding conviction even as rain tore through paper sheets with lyrics. Because rainy days mean… we got to fight back!

Our event shows PLP's continued commitment to fostering new leadership within our organization. Most of this year's May Day planning committee was new to the committee and confronted unforeseen challenges. We want to develop millions of students and workers to become leaders of the international working class in the fight for communism. Join PLP!

Oaxaca: Hoist red flags with working-class pride



On May Day, as part of the mass march of Section 22 of the teachers union of Oaxaca, 15 workers hoisted the red flags of the Progressive Labor Party (PLP) and chanted revolutionary slogans.

We distributed 2,000 flyers with the slogan "Communist May Day," electoral democracy is bosses' dictatorship, highlighting the deceitful essence of the capitalist class's electoral democracy. We attacked the bootlicking political parasites of the pro-bosses' parties that support this criminal capitalist system that oppresses the working class throughout the world.

We also called on workers to join our revolutionary communist party, PLP, to make revolution and build communism, a new society without bosses that serves the needs and interests of the international working class.

We enthusiastically wore caps imprinted with the PLP logo. Young men and women carried a banner that invited workers and students to "Destroy capitalism!" and "Fight for a communist world!"

Our slogans resounded in unison during the march and in the main streets of the Historic Center of Oaxaca City, drawing the attention of teachers and other workers who were witnessing the mega-march. The slogans that we chanted with energy and great enthusiasm were: "This march is not a celebration, but a struggle and a remonstration", "May Day is a Workers' Day", "The proletarian struggle is not parliamentarian", "Electoral democracy is bosses' dictatorship", "The only path to freedom is workers' dictatorship", "Fight, win, workers to power", "Government and bourgeoisie, the same crap", "Who are we? The communists from PLP ", "The workers' struggles have no borders."

At the end of the march, we had a get-together where we discussed our participation in this commemorative march of the international working class, and we agreed on activities to give continuity to the revolutionary process outlined by our revolutionary communist party, PLP.

MAY DAY: WORKERS' DAY

CHICAGO: 'Celebration of workers' potential'

As we start our march today, keep in mind that the only way we can create a society that works for our class is that we must fight like hell to get it. We will not win through the ballot box, we will not win it through prayer -- We will win it through building a conscious international working class that is woke to revolutionary communist ideas!

CHICAGO, May 6 –With these true and inspiring words, a veteran Progressive Labor Party (PLP) member helped kick off our International Workers Day (May Day) celebrations. Close to 70 multiracial comrades, youth, co-workers, neighbors and friends enthusiastically rallied and marched through the Uptown neighborhood this afternoon with open calls for communist revolution and workers' power.

In contrast to many May Day events around the world which have become reformist circuses pushing the bosses' ideas, PLP unapologetically stays firm in our fight for nothing less than a worker-run egalitarian world. Let the red flag of communist internationalism continue to unite us against capitalism's racism, sexism, and endless wars for profit!

Rallying our worker forces

The decision to hold May Day in Uptown this year was made in consideration of the sharpened class struggle taking place in this part of the city. In the last year alone, Uptown has been home to some of the most militant fights against capitalist-driven displacement and rotten health care (See CHALLENGE, 9/7/22 and 1/19). Many immigrant and unhoused workers living in the neighborhood have given key leadership to these struggles, and we have been proud to fight alongside them.

Our initial rallying point for the day was a busy intersection next to public transit routes and a city college. Having held weekly CHALLENGE sales and rallies at the same site for months leading up to today, PLP and our communist politics have made an impression already with workers and students in the area.

As more of us filled up the rally area, a pair of comrades led us in chants (including some brand new ones) to get the energy up. We unfurled our communist banners as well as colorful signs that we designed at an art event the weekend before. Along with the veteran comrade's kickoff speech, another Latin worker highlighted her work organizing among immigrant families in public schools and explained the pitfalls of nationalism:

> *Nationalism is another one of the problems that we have been fighting to abolish... Internationalism is the goal to end prejudice, injustice and exclusion among the working class.*

Take the streets, spread communist politics

With our forces at critical mass, we took the streets and began our march. A security team of marshals helped protect everyone involved and helped guide the pace. A team of CHALLENGE distributors helped ensure the Party's ideas got into the hands of the masses, getting out approximately 300 newspapers. Many honked their horns and raised their fists in support of our calls for communism. Some even heard our chants and spontaneously joined the march!



We made our way to the site of a clinic associated with Howard Brown Health, one of the bosses' networks that infamously laid off dozens of workers just before the latest holiday season. A comrade with experience working in nonprofits blasted their exploitative nature with a rousing speech:

> *We've seen schools and mental health clinics close across the south and west sides while racist politicians pour money into policing. Howard Brown is no exception; the cuts and layoffs are happening in the same places where they always make cuts, in Black and Brown communities.*
>
> *We need to build collective power and abolish capitalism. Under communism we can begin to build a new system where there is mass participation, where workers have real power and control over their labor, and where we can prioritize people and not profits!*

Get with the revolutionary program

We concluded our march close to the lakefront, just a stone's throw from the site of the heroic #RiseUptown anti-displacement struggle last year. A comrade who lives in Uptown shared his analysis of that struggle and the international connections he has built in the neighborhood:

> *Capitalism can never be reformed... Let's use the international ties that can be built in Uptown to export our Party's ideas to more corners of the world, to the international working class!"*

We were treated to a delicious lunch along with some pro-worker poetry, May Day greetings from comrades in other countries, and moving performances of Bella Ciao and the Internationale. Lastly, for the keynote speech, another veteran comrade highlighted the power of communist politics and the Party:

> *The imperialist crisis is providing an opportunity for the international working class and PLP. We are faced with the choice to follow the bosses down the road to war and fascism or to rise as a class to fight for communist revolution and workers' power. Only communist revolution can end the bosses' wars!*

May Day represents a communist future

May Day will always be a celebration of workers' power and potential. It is a day when we reinforce our unity, build morale, and are offered a glimpse at a communist future beyond capitalist ideas of race and borders. Let's live every day like it's May Day, and win the world we deserve!

'For a communist state from the river to the sea'

I send you revolutionary greetings from Israel-Palestine, on the forefront of the struggle against fascism. Here, the bosses' dogfight over state power and profits led to the rise of an openly fascist government. This administration makes no liberal pretense and viciously attacks the working class, especially women, workers from Palestine, and refugees.

The old, liberal wing of the ruling class opposes this, fearing that the end of the liberal charade will destabilize the regime and endanger their ties with the international business class, which also prefers to wear the liberal mask.

Meanwhile, the newer, less well-established wing of Israel's bourgeoisie welcomes the new regime, hoping that it will rob the older part of the ruling class and distribute the spoils among the newer wing.This led to mass protests of hundreds of thousands of people, mostly staunchly nationalist (Zionist) in character. We, as communists, participate in the Block against the Occupation, reminding the "patriotic" protesters of "The Elephant in the Room" they would otherwise gladly ignore, namely colonialism.

This May Day, we participate in marches in Nazareth and Jaffa against the regime, against fascism, and for one communist state from the River to the Sea, with equality and freedom for all working class people.March on May Day - smash capitalism and fascism!



LETTERS

We encourage all CHALLENGE readers to send in letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses worldwide.

International May Day Greetings from Jaffa

We, Progressive Labor Party members in Israel-Palestine, participated in a May Day rally in Jaffa. While there were only approximately 200 participants, mostly from the "official" Communist Party and a few Trotskyites, spirits were high and the messages were radical. Banners carried slogans in Arabic and in Hebrew such as "Workers of the World: Unite!" and "The blood of construction workers is on the hands of the government" Red flags with hammers and sickles were raised against the regime and against fascism.

Long Live May Day! Long Live Communism!



My first May Day: 'I was in the right place'

This past Saturday I marched in my first May Day parade, arriving to shouts of "rain or shine baby, rain or shine!" It was incredible to move down Flatbush Avenue as a unit in our red ponchos shouting "who are we? PLP!" I joined the Progressive Labor Party this past August, after seven years of working alongside and learning from Party members in countless struggles with the NYC Department of Education. Throughout those struggles we got some wins, but I came to realize, first, that under capitalism our wins could only be temporary, and second, that the working class was fully capable of running things themselves. Listening to the Kingsborough students describe their fight back against their racist administration reinforced my belief that I was in the right place. Today I read a quote from a worker who was protesting the tragic murder of Jordan Neely in the NYC subway–a predictable tragedy under a system that casts people struggling with mental illness to the streets to fend for themselves. When asked why he was protesting the worker responded "I kind of felt hopeless. I just wanted to be in community with other people and not feel so helpless." For me, the community that can make the change we need is PLP.

Rutger striker: 'incredibly powerful'

This was my first May Day celebration! Despite the inclement weather, the spirits were high and I loved getting to meet a legion of new comrades. After a long and tough year, it felt great to celebrate the wins and remember those we have lost. This year was full of firsts for me, my first year working "full-time" as a "part-time" worker, my first strike, and my first full-time union job offer (with real benefits)!

Worker power is stronger than ever, and the number of unions, strikes, and community organizing keeps growing across the United States. Taking a moment to remember that we are all in this fight together is what May Day is all about.

Even in the rain, the feeling of solidarity was pulsing through the crowd. It was incredibly powerful to hear from fellow workers fighting for justice and equality throughout the country and the world. Our experiences of oppression and injustice in a global capitalist system may be different, but our chains are linked, and we can only lift the hammer of revolution to free ourselves through solidarity.



May Day in the heat of class struggle



Sign reads, "Shocked by burned plastic but not by our stolen pensions."

GLOSSARY: COMMUNIST TERMS

Fascism

Capitalism's response to a crisis of their system, when the bosses can no longer sustain the charade of liberal democracy and resort to more direct control and state terror instead. Fascism is marked by the ruling capitalists disciplining their own ranks to serve the urgent needs of the capitalist state and weather the crisis. To defend their system from internal and external threats, they use all the means available in their state apparatus, including violence. To build unity within their class and loyalty from workers, they rely on nationalist politics and calls for sacrifice. Their strategy is to mislead the working class to kill our working class sisters and brothers in the next inter-imperialist war.

Big Fascists

The Big Fascists are the dominant finance capitalist faction of the U.S. ruling class. They represent the wealthiest and most powerful bosses in the U.S., including multinational banks like Chase and Citibank, multinational oil companies like ExxonMobil, the big automakers, Boeing, Amazon, and the major media companies. As the dominant grouping since World War II, the Big Fascists were the architects of the liberal world order with the U.S. bosses on top. Their dominance rests on U.S. financial and military power and its strategic control of the Middle East and the flow of oil to Europe, Asia, and Africa. To sustain this dominance, they need to rebuild a huge, multiracial military for inter-imperialist war, most likely with China.

Small Fascists

The Small Fascists are a group of domestically oriented U.S. capitalists who are challenging the Big Fascists over the direction of U.S. imperialism. Since their interests are less tied to controlling the flow of oil, they are against heavy taxation to keep troops in the Middle East and in general oppose costly military bases and invasions. They're willing to rely on a smaller, whiter army, backed by nuclear weapons and the Air Force. They use open racism to build a political following.



You can't smash the bosses without passing the hat!

The Progressive Labor Party unites the working class to learn to fight and fight to learn. This year's project is organized around connecting the struggles against police terror. Our goal is to raise our confidence that we are one world, one working class and capable of building a party to fight for communism! To donate, scan the QR code or go to www.plp.org and click, "donate." Follow us on social media! @PLPchallenge

MAY DAY: WORKERS' DAY



BAY AREA, May 6—Today, Progressive Labor Party held a BBQ-social to share May Day history, solidarity, and struggle with our comrades and friends. On May 1, PLP members and friends joined an Immigrant Rights' May Day March in San Francisco with our Red Flags flying high. There were about 400 participants, immigrants, families and supporters from many countries. We marched with the TPS (Temporary Protected Status) contingent demanding a path to permanent residency, adding our class-oriented chants to the march. We continue to focus on the international working class as the power that can challenge capitalism in the U.S. and Imperialism around the world.



Several comrades attended a May Day rally and march on May 1 sponsored by the Laborers International Union of North America (LIUNA), Teamsters and other unions and community organizations. About 800 workers marched from Washington Square Park to Foley Square in NYC. We distributed 300 CHALLENGE/Desafio newspapers to workers who enthusiastically received it, many of whom already know the paper from PLP's long term work in community organizations.

'Chant for May Day'

by Langston Hughes (1938)

To be read by a Workman with, for background, the rhythmic waves of rising and re-rising Mass Voices, multiplying like the roar of the sea. WORKER :
The first of May:
When the flowers break through the earth,
When the sap rises in the trees.
When the birds come back from the South.
Workers:
Be like the flowers, 10 VOICES :
Bloom in the strength of your unknown power, 20 VOICES :
Grow out of the passive earth, 40 VOICES :
Grow strong with Union,
All hands together—
To beautify this hour, this spring,
And all the springs to come 50 VOICES :
Forever for the workers! WORKER :
Workers: 10 VOICES :
Be like the sap rising in the trees, 20 VOICES :
Strengthening each branch, 40 VOICES :
No part neglected— 50 VOICES :
Reaching all the world. WORKER :
All workers: 10 VOICES :
White workers, 10 OTHERS :
Black workers, 10 OTHERS :
Yellow workers, 10 OTHERS :
Workers in the islands of the sea— 50 VOICES
Life is everywhere for you, WORKER :
When the sap of your own strength rises
50 VOICES :
Life is everywhere. 10 VOICES :
May Day! 20 VOICES :
May Day! 40 VOICES :
May Day! 50 VOICES :
When the earth is new, WORKER :
Proletarians of all the world: 20 VOICES :
Arise, 40 VOICES :
Grow strong, 60 VOICES :
Take Power, 80 VOICES :
Till the forces of
the earth are yours 100 VOICES :
From this hour.

RED EYE ON THE NEWS . . .

Pace of capitalist crises increases as banks collapse

New York Times, 5/5–A cluster of regional banks scrambled on Thursday to convince the public of their financial soundness, even as their stock prices plunged and investors took bets on which might be the next to fall. The tumult brought questions about the future of the lenders to the fore, suggesting a new phase in the crisis that began two months ago with the collapse of Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank, and was punctuated on Monday by the seizure and sale of First Republic Bank...The trading was a reminder that the crisis may yet continue, belying predictions that the situation would be calmer after JPMorgan Chase came to an agreement with government officials to acquire the ailing First Republic. Regulators agreed to assume billions of dollars of potential losses lurking on First Republic's books, and JPMorgan's chief executive, Jamie Dimon, declared immediately after the acquisition that "this part of the crisis is over."

India's bosses use old recipe of tribal violence to control workers

Al Jazeera, 5/7–At least 54 people have reportedly been killed and some 23,000 people displaced, most of them sheltering in army camps, in ethnic violence in India's northeastern state of Manipur, according to military officials. On Sunday, the army said it had "significantly enhanced" its surveillance in violence-affected areas, including the Imphal Valley, through aerial means such as drones and the deployment of military helicopters.

The unrest in Manipur state erupted on Wednesday after a protest march organized by the Kuki tribal group sparked clashes with the Meitei non-tribal group, resulting in widespread damage to vehicles and properties. Authorities on Thursday issued "shoot-at-sight" orders and called military reinforcement to quell the violence that opened a new faultline in the state with a checkered history of ethnic violence. Internet connection was cut off after violence broke out on Wednesday and a curfew was imposed in nine out of the 16 districts.

The Meiteis...Hindu community, which is based in the state's capital city of Imphal, forms more than 50 percent of the state's population of 3.5 million, as per India's last census in 2011. The Naga and Kuki tribes... two mostly Christian tribes form around 40 percent of the state's population, and enjoy "Scheduled Tribe" status, which gives them land-owning rights in the hills and forests.

U.S. control of Guyana expands as oil profits flow

Reuters, 4/27–Exxon Mobil Corp and its partners have approved a $12.7 billion investment for their fifth and most expensive offshore oil project in Guyana, the U.S. firm said in a statement. The project called Uaru will produce up to 250,000 barrels of oil and gas per day...The decision coincides with Exxon considering whether to expand its holdings in Guyana through an auction of oil blocks set for July. Exxon and partners Hess Corp and CNOOC Ltd control all production in the South American nation, which according to consultancy Rystad Energy is set to leapfrog the United States next decade as one of the world's largest offshore producers. "Our Guyana investments and unrivaled development success continue to contribute to secure, reliable global energy supplies," said Liam Mallon, president of Exxon's oil and gas producing business.

Cuban rulers rule out May Day march - again

BBC, 4/30–Every year hundreds of thousands of people are bussed in from across the island to fill Havana's Revolution Square on International Workers' Day. It is the first time since the 1959 revolution that the celebrations have been cancelled for economic reasons. In recent weeks long queues have formed at petrol stations, with drivers often waiting for days. Cuban authorities have traditionally mobilised huge resources to ensure the success of the May Day parade, transporting workers en masse to Havana. Before this year, the event had only ever been cancelled in 2020 and 2021, because of the Covid pandemic.

WHY I JOINED SPEECH

'JOIN ME—LET'S FIGHT TOGETHER FOR OUR CLASS'

Continued from page 1

in how capitalism functions, how class struggle is the key to progress, and how workers can run society. I still remember my first experience fighting this racism - joining a march to the CUNY chancellor's house. We marched against racism and for better pay for our teachers. As a student I couldn't just sit back and watch what is happening at CUNY without joining the fight. I united with Hostos students to fight for the opening of the cafeteria and their cafeteria is now open. Together we can succeed! Just like in China in 1949, we know that when the working class, led by communists such as us in PLP, take power again we will bring this education to every worker in the world!

I joined PLP because I was born in Haiti, and when I look at how the working class there continues to suffer under racist oppression, I know there has to be a better way. We can see how the system forces our brother and sister to run away, how they force us to leave our beautiful community for a better life elsewhere, and what happens to the people who stayed. What happens to people like me that have family that we would like to spend time with? They use our own people to kill us, they use fear to tear us apart, to divide us, to convince workers to turn against workers. We are strong together, we did it before, we can do it again. Nou se premye pep nwa libere, nou konen byen unite se fos nou, we show others the way, we can find our way back and save workers in Haiti and around the world from this mess. Let's unite, let's find our way back, let's fight together.

"I joined PLP because we are fighting for a society where everyone should have the same opportunities to build a life. Where ordinary individuals can become extraordinary."

I joined PLP because we are fighting for a society where everyone should have the same opportunities to build a life. Where ordinary individuals can become extraordinary.Where another of our brothers will not have a knee on his neck for another 9 minutes 30 seconds. Say his name. George Floyd. In that society we are fighting for, no role will be bigger or smaller because it will guarantee the idea of human equality. You, you, and you, join us, join me, let's unite, and fight this system that keeps breeding servants of the ruling class, killer cops, racist unemployment and imperialist war!

Join me and fight together against anti-immigrant policies!

Join me, join us, let's fight together for the international working class!

Join me, join us, let's fight for a communist revolution!



Pakistan

Colombia

WRITE FOR CHALLENGE!

CHALLENGE strives to be the communist paper for and by the international working class. We call on all readers, supporters, and comrades to submit class struggle articles, analytical pieces, original photos and graphics, letters, and political cartoons.

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Send to desafio.challenge@gmail.com. For some guidance and house style rules, please go to www.bit.ly/338ZJow

All submissions are open to collective discussion, struggle, and change. See sidebar on page 2 about fighting for collectivity and against a cult of the individual.

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